

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director for Environment</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Rosa Tanfield</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Litter and Dog Bin Policy review</b>		<b>☎ 538047</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards		

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Policy Panel have been asked to review a proposed new Litter and Dog Bin Policy and set out recommendations to Cabinet.

## 2. Action Required

- 2.1 That the proposed Policy document is reviewed
- 2.2 Recommendations for changes are made to Cabinet

## 3. Reason for Review

- 3.1 To audit the Council's street-level assets
- 3.2 To reduce street furniture 'clutter'
- 3.3 To review and ensure that the Council's street furniture assets are used correctly and responsibly
- 3.4 To ensure a diligent process is in place to adhere to planning regulations and considering service resources
- 3.5 Embed behaviour change into communities regarding the responsibility of street level waste and recycling disposal
- 3.6 Mitigate the impact of street level fly tipping and bin abuse

## **4. Background Information**

- 4.1 The Council has no legal duty to provide litter and dog waste bins, but it does have a duty to keep Council owned land and public highways clear of litter and refuse as far as practicable. To that end and to ensure the Council can discharge its responsibilities under the Environment Act 1990, bins are provided where appropriate and necessary across the Borough.
- 4.2 The Council provides, maintains, and empties approximately 1800 litter and dog bins within the Borough. The Council have never had a litter bin policy for agreeing bins in these locations. It has been the case that Councillors and Parish Councils have asked the Council to install and empty additional bins at a cost to the Council, but with no ongoing maintenance or service charges being factored in.
- 4.3 In the Borough of Colchester, the capital cost of providing litter and dog bins is £1014,170. This is a substantial number in relation to the size of the seventeen Wards that they are located within. As funding reduces and finances nationally are stretched this needs to be carefully considered.
- 4.4 Of the 1,800 litter and dog bins in Colchester, in the main, the waste goes to landfill. If residents take home litter, they have the option and opportunity to present the litter in their household recycling, improving the performance of our resident's waste management and improving income from recycling material. Not all locations across the Borough support recycling facilities in the public realm and therefore focus on behaviour change, awareness and communication with the public is important.
- 4.5 The Council does not have a Litter and Dog Bin Policy in place and in addition, no review process currently exists to ensure that litter bin locations continue to match the expectation of when a bin was originally installed, considering changes to usage patterns and external factors such as vandalism.
- 4.6 In considering a new Policy, Officers have taken into consideration research by APSE and the Department of Communities and Local Government in 2017, which looked at the issues of 'the design, number and location of public litter bins and other items of street furniture to help reduce litter at the local level'. Fundamentally, the research established that the aims and objectives of landowners and local authorities should focus on the reducing of waste, litter and support behaviour change, rather than installing more bins to perpetuate and encourage the generation of waste and litter. They established the following recommendations:
- More emphasis needed on prevention. Need to be proactive not reactive. Spend less on "binrastructure" more on behavioural change.
  - Need to get into education system (schools etc.) need to overcome difficulty of being excluded as anti-litter education is no longer part of curriculum.
  - Packaging / fast food still the biggest problem. These organisations need to be part of the national strategy. Currently they tend to have "voluntary codes". Also messages need to be clearer on packaging on how to dispose/recycle them.
  - Need to shift emphasis from operations to prevention. Need to co-ordinate with others who carry out litter collection – fast food outlets, industrial estates, community payback, volunteers etc.

- Hard hitting messages needed like the “Don’t be a tosser” campaign – seat belt campaigns, drink & drive and smoking have all been successful using this approach.
- Attitude of parental generation needs to change to guide today’s young generation.
- Make better use of social media to deliver message.
- Using public realm itself to deliver message – signage, “binfrastructure”, innovative street-based anti-litter campaigns
- Remove street furniture etc. to make cleaning easier.
- Government needs to recognise that local authority budgets are decreasing, and this is impacting on non-statutory services such as street cleansing. Whatever shape the strategy takes, it needs to be deliverable at local level

#### Proposed Litter and Dog Bin Policy

- 4.7 To support the Policy Panel in the review of the Policy document, Appendix A sets out a terms of reference and key areas of focus:
- Environmental implications
  - Public implications
  - Operational implications
- 4.8 Appendix B sets out the proposed Policy document.

### **5. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 5.1 In completing this section you should give proper weight to equality and diversity considerations and demonstrate how the decision will impact on the promotion of equality and overcome discrimination in relation to gender, gender reassignment, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age and race/ethnicity.
- 5.2 All new policies and any major changes to a policy need an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be completed. Senior Management Team has advised that the following process must be complied with:
- EIA to be completed in line with the policy or change being introduced;
  - EIA to be uploaded to the website and Equality and Diversity Officer informed who will amend the master timetable to include the new EIA and review date;
  - A link to the EIA to be included in the relevant section of the report.

*Reports will not be processed without a link to a completed and agreed EIA.*

- 5.3 Furthermore, you need to generally consider whether a course of action will involve a breach of human rights and show that these have been taken into account by recording the reasoning behind a particular decision. For help contact Andrew Weavers ext. 2213.

*If the report does not impact on any of the standard references listed separately in paragraphs 7 to 13 below, please consider using the following paragraph as an alternative.*

## **6. Standard References**

- 6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management implications.

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

- 7.1 In this section identify any direct links to the vision, themes and objectives of the [Strategic Plan 2020-23](#). For help contact Chris Reed on extension 2240.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 In this section show that consideration has been given to the timing and method of consultation. Also give an indication of what will happen to the responses.

## **9. Publicity Considerations**

- 9.1 In this section show that consideration has been given to who will be affected by the decision, what effect it will have on them and the best way of communicating the decision to them.
- 9.2 If the project is likely to be very controversial then consideration should be given to consulting the people concerned in advance of the decision.

## **10. Financial implications**

- 10.1 Set out details here of any financial implications which are not already allowed for in the approved budget. For help contact your group accountant in Financial Services.

## **11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 Health and wellbeing is influenced by a number of factors, many of which fall under the responsibility of the council. These include planning, housing, access to green space, licensing, environmental health protection and economic development and many more. The council must do all it reasonably can to promote positive health benefits to our residents whilst reducing, removing or minimising any unintended consequences to health that may arise from services or decisions. By completing this section, it is shown that the potential impacts to health and wellbeing outcomes have been considered. For further advice contact our Public Health Improvement Coordinator on x7430
- 11.2 In completing this section show that community safety considerations have been taken into account and consideration has been given on how the decision will impact upon crime and disorder. The Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. Community safety includes actions to address problems identified by people living and working in the area including the fear of crime. For help contact the Community Safety section extension 2884.

## **12. Health and Safety Implications**

- 12.1 In completing this section consider whether, as a result of the decision, there would be any harm to the health and safety of the general public and ensure that the actions taken as a result of the decision are as safe as is reasonably practicable. For help contact Carl Free on extension 6579.

### **13. Risk Management Implications**

- 13.1 In completing this section detail the implications of the decision made (that is the effect of agreeing or disagreeing with the recommendation) not necessarily the risks of the report item. Identify the risks and opportunities. If there are strong risks or opportunities associated with the item these should be made clear in the main body of the report. This section is a summary of the potential effect of the decision. Any implications for other items or projects should be outlined with further details in the main body, if applicable. For help contact the Corporate Governance Manager on extension 8901.

### **14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

#### **14.1 Environment Bill**

- 13.2 As part of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy three key consultations have been undertaken. The proposals within these consultations will potentially see the biggest changes to waste services in years in the ways that services work, the infrastructure required, and the way in which councils' costs are covered. There is a particular focus on waste and recycling. Each of these will have an effect on litter produced by the public, how it is managed and how it will be funded:
- 13.3 Extended Produced Responsibility for Packaging (EPR): The proposals within this consultation set out to introduce mechanisms to make packaging producers responsible for the full net cost of managing the packaging that they place on the market. This includes all costs incurred from collection, sorting, and recycling, as well as litter and refuse management costs. This also includes the management of packaging items that are placed in any non-recyclable residual waste stream. (It excludes items covered under the Deposit Return Scheme)
- 13.4 Deposit Return Scheme (DRS): This consultation proposes to instigate upfront deposits, paid by the public for plastic, metal and glass drinks containers, to be reimbursed at return points. It's aim is to incentivise recycling of these items and improve recycling quality.
- 13.5 Consistency in household collections and business recycling: This consultation aims to standardise the materials collected across the UK from households and businesses.

### **Appendices**

Any Appendices which provide additional information necessary to complete the report may be included as separate documents or attached to the report as one document. It is standard practice for these appendices to be listed alphabetically - .e.g Appendix A, B, C. Please ensure that your appendices include reference to which appendix they are as a header to the document.

## **Background Papers**

Background papers are documents which have been relied upon to formulate the report but excluding documents already published elsewhere. Please be aware that any document listed must be shown to anyone who asks to see it. You should take this into consideration before listing any confidential documents.